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SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY MENON CONFIRMS INDIA WILL KEEP  
ITS TROOPS IN MONUC

REF: STATE 35855

(SBU) In an April 23 meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary Menon, Ambassador Burleigh asked him to confirm that the GOI will keep Indian forces in the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Menon gave a clear and crisp answer: "We got the letter (the April 17 letter Congolese FM Mwamba sent SYG Ban). I told our PermRep in New York that the letter is good. We're happy now. We'll stay and continue." Menon added that he had also informed the SYG's Chief of Staff Vijay Nambiar of India's decision to stay. He further expressed gratitude to the United States and told Ambassador Burleigh, "It's obvious the Secretary's letter made a difference."

BURLEIGH